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worthy of that of his honored predecessor. The latest legal developments have been faithfully recorded, and the commentaries as a whole we can commend unreservedly to the student of the law of England.

R. W. W.

A DIGEST OF THE LAW OF AGENCY. By WILLIAM BOWSTEAD. Second Edition. London: Sweet & Maxwell, L't'd. 1898.

The second edition of this book is fuller and better than the first. Such a book fills a place which an ordinary text book cannot fill. It cannot fail to save a practitioner much time in wading through the cases in an ordinary digest where the necessary haste of compilation too often results in misplacing a case, and where one has to sift through a great deal of worthless material in order to find the good. The objection that the principles contained in the articles, into which the book has been divided, seem too broad, is overcome by the ability with which the principles have been defined by the illustrations of digested cases. These illustrations have the real merit of being short, yet full enough to be complete. As a student's book, it can only be useful by reading in the reports themselves the cases bearing on the various principles given. Concise rules will not be so often retained by the reader as rules and the reasons for them. Only English cases are given.

It is quite equal in print and arrangement to the latest books published.

H. H. B.

DENIS ON CONTRACTS OF PLEDGE. A Treatise on the Law of the Contract of Pledge as governed by both the Common Law and the Civil Law. By HENRY DENIS, of the New Orleans Bar. 8 vo., pp. 619. New Orleans: F. F. Hansel & Bro., L't'd. 1898.

In a recent address before the New Orleans Bar Association,* Mr. Henry Denis, speaking of the analogies and differences of the civil and common law, dwelt with particular emphasis upon the subject of the contract of pledge. He called attention to the importance of the pledge as the pivot of modern commerce, and deprecated the unsatisfactory condition of the law of pledge at the common law.

In an effort to clear up some of the confusion attending the common law learning on this subject, Mr. Denis, in the treatise which lies before us, has made a very careful comparison of the civil and common law doctrines relating thereto. He has discovered that the obscurity commented upon arises in great measure from the common law principles concerning chattel mortgages and

* American Law Review, Vol. XXXIII, p. 28.